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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE

Note verbale dated 15 November 1996 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992, I have the honour to inform you herewith that on 16 November 1996 the Russian space vehicle Mars-96 will be launched on an interplanetary trajectory from the Baikonur launch site for the purpose of investigating the planet Mars. The vehicle will carry radionuclide heat sources based on plutonium-238 with a total heat output of 153 watts, which are leak-proof and reliable to a high degree and meet the special international and national requirements for radiation safety.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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